



A New Day for Recycling

Recycling is still worth it.

There have been many changes and challenges with recycling lately and you want to know — is it still worth it? The answer is YES. Let's take a closer look at the changes to understand what recycling is like now, why it's still worth it and how you can keep recycling thriving.

In late 2017 China — the world's largest recycler — stopped taking recyclables. That created a huge need for new places to send recycling. For Seattle, this meant finding new places to send our mixed paper (e.g., magazines, office paper, and newspaper) and mixed plastic (e.g., yogurt tubs and to-go containers) that had been going to China.

At first, it was hard to find new places that were able to handle the increase of recyclables but Seattle was able to, meaning no recyclables were sent to the landfill. Starting in 2018, new recyclers started up and have increased operations. **For Seattle, this means that most recyclables are now being recycled in North America**, including all plastics, glass and metal and most of the paper and cardboard.

At the same time recyclers raised the standards for materials they would take. Recyclables need to be cleaner and have less non-recyclable materials mixed in, which makes processing easier. That means no food, no liquids, and only putting accepted things in our recycle bins. Learning to recycle right is part of the new day for recycling.

Recycling will keep evolving and will always be part of life in Seattle. It's something you can do every day that is good for the environment. To keep it thriving, learn how to Recycle Right and keep recycling.

Keep Recycling. It Matters.

When we recycle, materials get reused, preventing the need to harvest new material — like oil for plastic and trees for paper. Recycling helps reduce pollution and save energy. That's a great thing! To understand why it matters, let's take a closer look at how glass bottles are recycled, from recycling bin to new bottles right here in Seattle.

Glass is almost endlessly recyclable, that means that you can keep melting and making new bottles out of the same glass over and over. Using recycled glass prevents the mining of silica, soda ash, and limestone, the raw materials for glass.

Glass is sorted, crushed, melted, and made into new bottles for the local beer and wine industry right here in Seattle. That means that materials don't have to travel far — an additional environmental benefit.

From old bottle to new bottle right here in our city. This "closed loop" system depends on you to keep recycling glass as well as other recyclable paper, cardboard, plastic, and metal. It matters.



100% of recycled glass is recycled, right here in Seattle.



Use Less Today for a Better Tomorrow

Reduce. Reuse. Bring your own. Zero waste.

Where to start? We hear these terms a lot lately, especially tied to pollution, our waste, and having a smaller environmental footprint. It can seem overwhelming to figure out what to do. It comes down to one thing: **Use less.** What that looks like is up to you. **Start small but get started. Pick one or two things to focus on.**

- **Reuse something you already have**, like wrapping your sandwich in a plastic bread bag or produce bag.
- **Say "no thanks" to things you don't need**, like utensils for food you're taking home or a shopping bag for something you can easily carry.
- **Use less "one-time use" items**, like single serving snacks, disposable utensils, paper drink cups, paper plates — think about things you can do without or choose something that can be reused.
- **Use things longer**, It's tempting to buy new things, but consider wearing your coat one more season, keeping your smart phone one more year, or if you have something that needs repair, look into fixing it.

Using less is the best way to reduce your impact on the environment. Making new products contributes to climate change.

How you choose to use less is up to you.

Start small but get started. Small steps add up.



SPU Waste-Free Grants Help Communities Prevent and Reduce Waste

Photo by Jeremy Dwyer-Lindgren/ Woodland Park Zoo.

Woodland Park Zoo: Going Plastic-Bottle Free

Next time you visit the zoo, bring your own refillable water bottle. With the help of funders like SPU, Woodland Park Zoo put in several water bottle filling stations around the zoo. This change is part of the zoo's commitment to stop selling drinks in single-use plastic bottles, eliminating 120,000 plastic bottles a year.

Plastic bottles are just part of the problem. Other single-use plastics like cups, straws, utensils, and bags can also harm wildlife. The zoo has been working for years to phase out single-use plastics and inspire visitors and local communities to do the same.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Bring your own water bottle. Reduce your use of single-use plastics.



City Fruit: Rescuing and Donating Fruit from Trees in Seattle

Seattle has one of the most extensive networks of urban fruit trees in the country. Tens of thousands of fruit trees are spread across the city, from public parks and orchards to backyards and planting strips. Most of that fruit goes to waste because tree owners can't handle the abundance of fruit. That's where City Fruit comes in.

In 2018, City Fruit harvested 46,758 pounds of fruit donating 24,009 pounds of the harvested fruit to local meal programs and food banks. SPU's grant helped fund the U-Pick Harvest Box program, that empowers tree owners to collect fruit from their trees and schedule a pick up from City Fruit.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Visit www.cityfruit.org to volunteer or sign up for the U-Pick Harvest Box.



Learn more about SPU's Waste-Free Communities

Matching Grant: www.seattle.gov/util/wastefreegrants

Is your toilet wasting water? Don't be surprised by a high bill.

Running (leaking) toilets are common. Look for these signs:



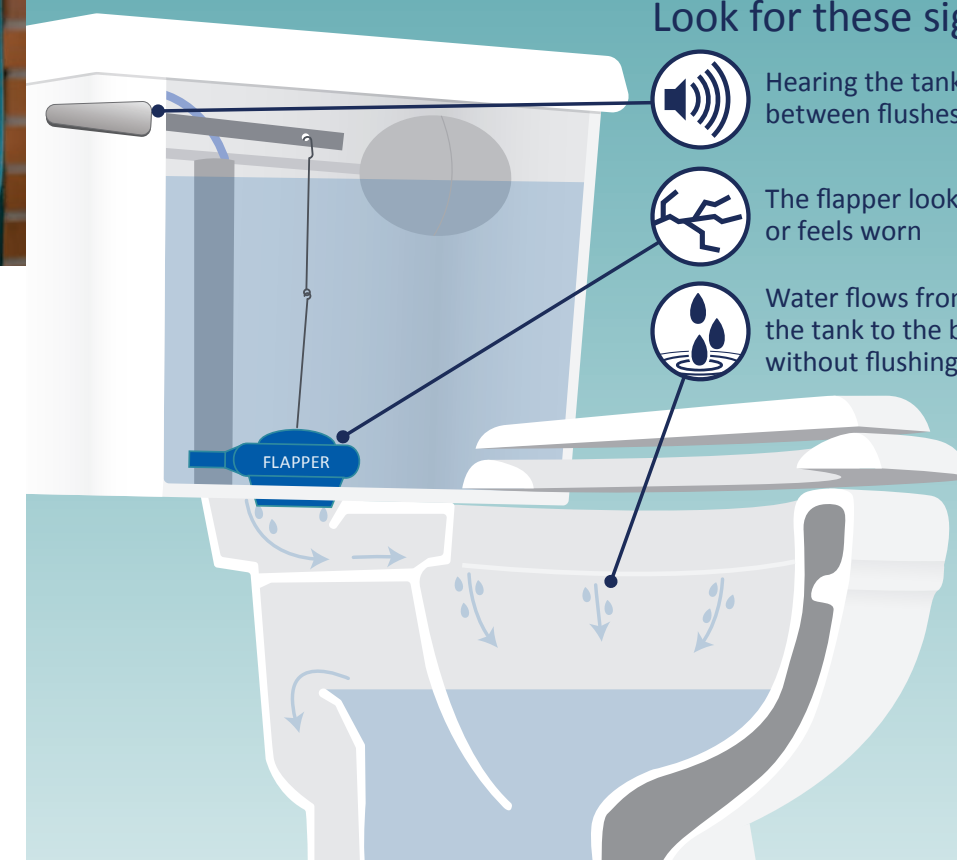
Hearing the tank refill between flushes



The flapper looks or feels worn



Water flows from the tank to the bowl without flushing



Learn how to find and fix leaks at:

savingwater.org

INCOME-QUALIFIED
FREE Toilets

Seattle.gov/util/freetoilets
or call (206) 448-5751

\$100 rebate
TO REPLACE AN OLD TOILET

savingwater.org
or call (206) 615-1282

Consider replacing your toilet if it:

- Has recurring leaks
- Needs 2 flushes to clear the bowl
- Is more than 20 years old

THE RECYCLING PROCESS

- STEP 1**
Recycling is picked up by a collection truck
- STEP 2**
Taken to a Material Recovery Facility for sorting
- STEP 3**
Recyclables are sorted by people and machines
- STEP 4**
Sorted materials are baled together to be sold
- STEP 5**
Bales are sent to recyclers to be made into new things



#OneLessThing

Start small, keep it simple. Using less doesn't have to be complicated or mean buying new reusable bottles or bags. Think of ways you can use what you already have.

Getting started:

- **Bring your own:** utensils, cups, water bottles and bags
- **Reuse what you have:** Use a jar for snacks or as a cup, instead of recycling it.
- **Buy in bulk** when you can to **avoid excess packaging**
- **Borrow it:** Get tools from local tool libraries. For things you only need for a short time, ask a neighbor or friend.

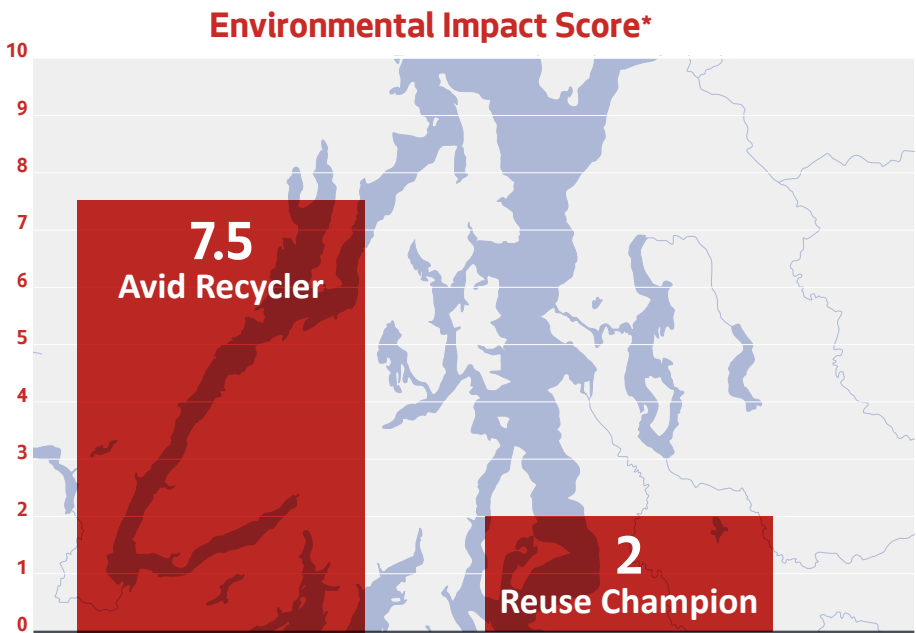
Recycling is good for the environment.

Using less is better.

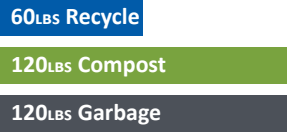
A look at the environmental impact of the packaging that our food comes in.



Single use food packaging includes everything from milk jugs to soy sauce bottles to pizza boxes.



The average Seattle household disposes of **300 pounds** of food packaging a year.



Reduce your environmental impact by refusing single use packaging, reusing containers, and preventing food waste.

*The Environmental Impact Score uses life cycle assessment methods and consumer expenditure purchasing data to measure the impact that consumer choices have on 1. Climate change, 2. Public health, and 3. Ecosystem toxicity.

Recycle Right. It Matters.

Follow these tips and make sure you're recycling right.

- 1 All recyclables need to be Empty, Clean & Dry.** Keep food and liquids out. When they get into the mix, they ruin other materials and can make them unrecyclable.
- 2 Focus on the 5 most wanted recyclables.** These are the most valuable recyclables. Focus on these categories, and you've got it covered.
 1. Paper
 2. Cardboard
 3. Glass - bottles & jars
 4. Plastic - bottles, jugs, tubs and containers
 5. Metal
- 3 When in doubt, find out;** Put only accepted items in the Recycle. Don't know if something is recyclable? Look it up on the **Where Does it go tool.** seattle.gov/utilities/WhereDoesitGo



Have stuff to recycle that doesn't go in your cart?

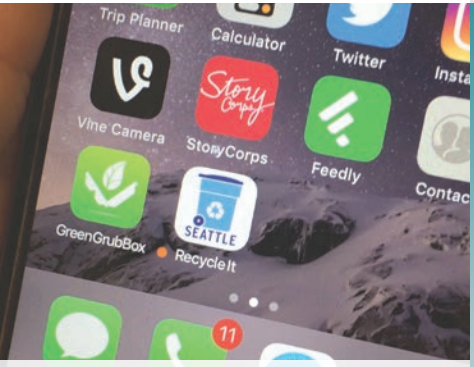
Bring it to a **Recycling & Reuse Collection Event** at locations around the city throughout the year.

We know you're looking to recycle as much as you can. We're working to make it easier for you to drop off harder to recycle items. So, you can recycle more!

What we'll take:

- Electronics: computers, monitors and small electronics
- Foam blocks
- Household goods & clothing
- Batteries & florescent lightbulbs

Locations and list of accepted items: seattle.gov/Utilities/services/Recycling



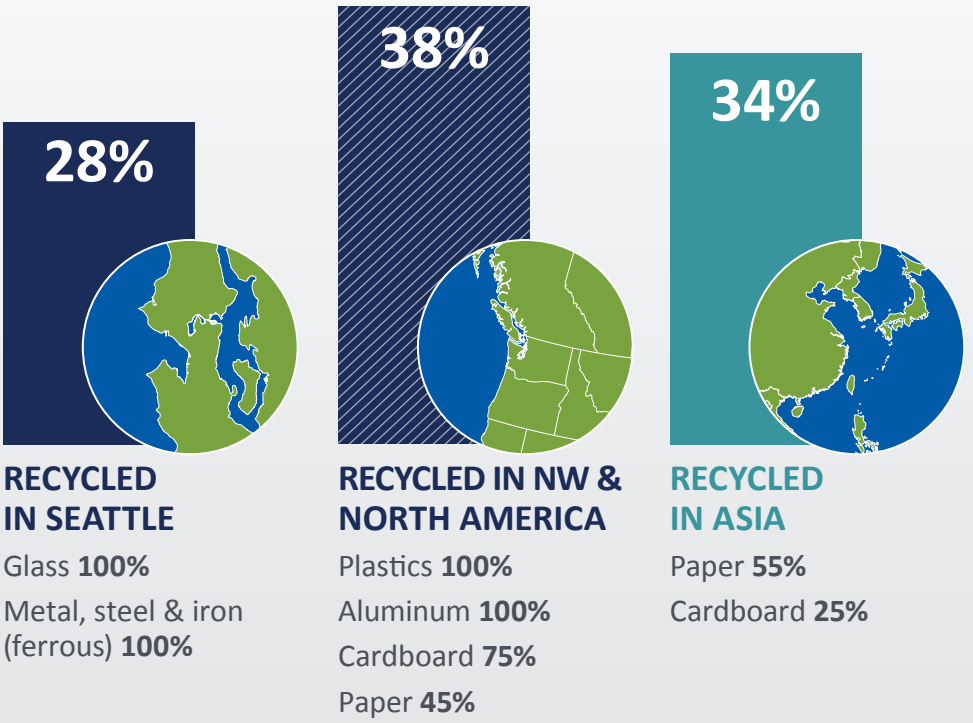
Never forget your recycling day with the **Recycle It app**.

Get weekly collection day reminders, answers to your recycling questions, schedule a special item pick up and report common service issues.

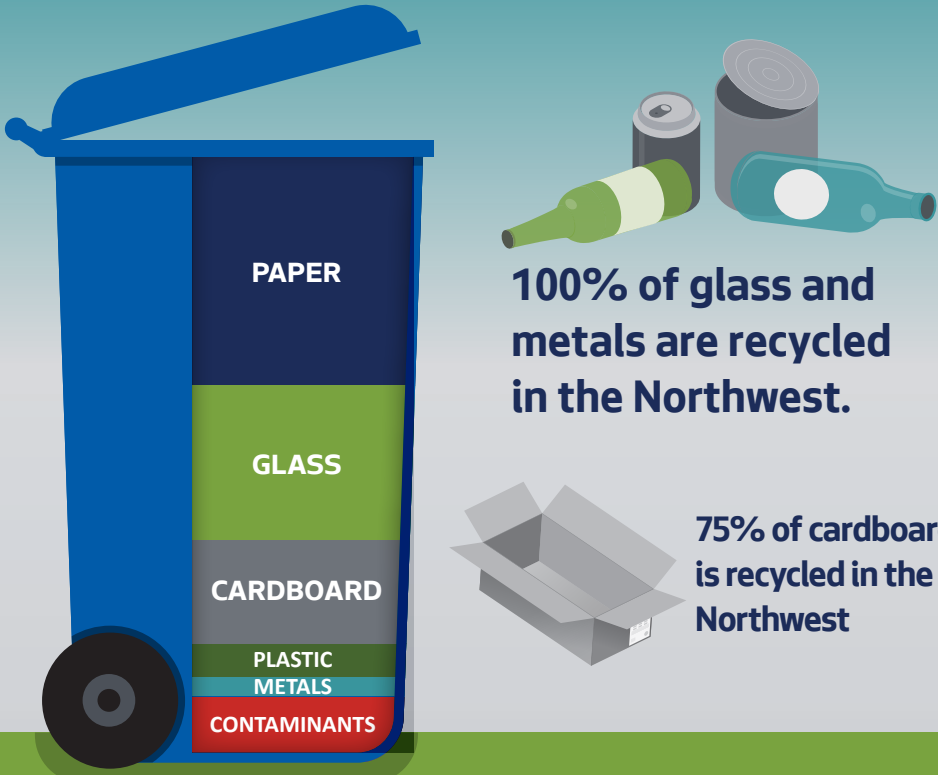
Download the app at: Seattle.gov/RecycleIt



Where Seattle's Recyclables Go



What's in the Recycling Cart



Seattle Public Utilities
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4900
PO Box 34027
Seattle WA 98124-4027



CurbWaste & Conserve Newsletter

A Look at Recycling Now

Keep Recycling. It Matters.

Using Less for a Bigger Impact

For interpretation services please call (206) 684-3000.
如需口譯服務請電 (206) 684-3000。
통역 서비스를 원하시면 (206) 684-3000 번으로 전화해 주십시오.
Wixii adeegyada turjubaanka faadlan wac (206) 684-3000.
Para servicios de traducción, por favor llame al (206) 684-3000.
Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa (206) 684-3000.
Mướn yêu cầu dịch vụ thông dịch xin gọi số (206) 684-3000.
Hearing impaired call Washington Relay at 711.

CurbWaste & Conserve

NEWSLETTER

100% of Seattle's plastics are recycled in North America

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